CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for common contact identification comprising:

receiving in a first portable computing device corresponding to a first user a local communication from a second portable computing device corresponding to a second user, wherein said local communication identifies said second user;

receiving at a central receiving station a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device identifying at least said first and said second user;

accessing a data store comprising contact information corresponding to said first user and said second user to determine whether said first user and said second user have at least one common contact; and

if at least one common contact is determined, sending at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication to said first and second portable computing devices including an identifier common to said first and second users and corresponding to said at least one common contact.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said first and second users.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said at least one common contact.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said second portable computing device provides notification to said second user that another user has at least one common contact.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said first portable computing device provides notification to said first user that another user has at least one common contact.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifier is a visual identifier to be provided to a display unit.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said local communication is a wireless communication.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said local communication is a wireless infrared communication.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said local communication is a near-field intrabody communication.

10. A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:

at a first portable computing device, receiving a local communication from a second portable computing device, said local communication identifying a second user corresponding to said second portable computing device;

sending a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device to a receiving station, said non-local wireless communication identifying said second user and a first user corresponding to said first portable computing device; and

receiving a non-local wireless communication from said receiving station, said non-local wireless communication including a contact common to said first user and said second user and an identifier common to both said users.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

notifying said first user that another user has been identified as having a common contact.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said notification provides the identity of said second user.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
specifying said identifier to a display.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said local communication is a wireless communication.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein said local communication is a wireless infrared communication.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein said local communication is a near-field intrabody communication.

17. A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:
receiving in a first portable computing device a near-field intrabody communication from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device;
comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and
providing a notification if one or more common contacts exist.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

20. A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:

receiving in a first portable computing device a local communication from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification if one or more common contacts exist.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said local communication is a wireless communication.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein said local communication is a wireless infrared communication.

25. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device corresponding to a first user a local communication from a second portable computing device corresponding to a second user, wherein said local communication identifies said second user;

receiving at a central receiving station a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device identifying at least said first and said second user;

accessing a data store comprising contact information corresponding to said first user and said second user to determine whether said first user and said second user have at least one common contact; and

if at least one common contact is determined, sending at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication to said first and second portable computing devices including an identifier common to said first and second users and corresponding to said at least one common contact.

26. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said first and second users.

27. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said at least one common contact.

28. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said second portable computing device provides notification to said second user that another user has at least one common contact.

29. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said first portable computing device provides notification to said first user that another user has at least one common contact.

30. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said identifier is a visual identifier to be provided to a display unit.

31. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said local communication is a wireless communication.

32. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said local communication is a wireless infrared communication.

33. The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said local communication is a near-field intrabody communication.

34. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

at a first portable computing device, receiving a local communication from a second portable computing device, said local communication identifying a second user corresponding to said second portable computing device;

sending a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device to a receiving station, said non-local wireless communication identifying said second user and a first user corresponding to said first portable computing device; and

receiving a non-local wireless communication from said receiving station, said non-local wireless communication including a contact common to said first user and said second user and an identifier common to both said users.

35. The machine-readable storage of claim 34, further comprising:

notifying said first user that another user has been identified as having a common contact.

36. The machine-readable storage of claim 34, wherein said notification provides the identity of said second user.

37. The machine-readable storage of claim 34, further comprising:

specifying said identifier to a display.

38. The machine-readable storage of claim 34, wherein said local communication is a wireless communication.

39. The machine-readable storage of claim 34, wherein said local communication is a wireless infrared communication.

40. The machine-readable storage of claim 34, wherein said local communication is a near-field intrabody communication.

41. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device a near-field intrabody communication from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification if one or more common contacts exist.

42. The machine-readable storage of claim 41, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

43. The machine-readable storage of claim 41, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

44. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device a local communication from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification if one or more common contacts exist.

45. The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

46. The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

47. The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said local communication is a wireless communication.

48. The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said local communication is a wireless infrared communication.